

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/068,895	ASAI ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Cam Y T. Truong	2162	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/1/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,6-14 and 20-28.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
  1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)</li> <li>2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)</li> <li>3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),<br/>Paper No./Mail Date _____</li> <li>4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br/>of Biological Material</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application</li> <li>6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br/>Paper No./Mail Date _____.</li> <li>7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment</li> <li>8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance</li> <li>9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.</li> </ol> |
|---|--|

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1, 6-14, 20-28 are pending in this Office Action.

**EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Sean M. McGinn on 1/17/2007.

In claims:

In claim 1, on line 9, please replace "another" by "an other".

In claim 20, page 5, on line 14, please replace "another" by "an other".

In claim 28, on line 9, please replace "another" by "an other".

***Allowable Subject Matter***

3. Claims 1, 6-14, 20-28 are allowed.

The prior art of record, alone or in combination, does not teach or fairly suggest the combination of steps as recited in independent claim 1 wherein "wherein upon replacement of said search device by said other search device, said first interface separably and directly connects, without via a network, said other search device and said command execution device; a storage controller for accessing said storage device and reading data that has been stored in said storage device or writing data to said storage device in accordance with an applied read/write command; and a second interface for separably connecting said storage controller and said command execution device; said command execution device applying a read/write command to said storage controller in accordance with the entered command";

The prior art of record, alone or in combination, does not teach or fairly suggest the combination of steps as recited in independent claim 20 , wherein "a storage controller for accessing said storage device and reading data that has been stored in said storage device or writing data to said storage device in accordance with an applied read/write command; and a second interface for separably connecting said storage controller and said command execution device, wherein said command execution device applies a read/write command to said storage controller in accordance with the entered command, wherein said search device is replaceable by another

Art Unit: 2162

search device upon separation of said search device from said first interface, and wherein upon replacement of said search device by said other search device, said first interface separably and directly connects, without via a network, said other search device and said command execution device"; and

The prior art of record, alone or in combination, does not teach or fairly suggest the combination of steps as recited in independent claim 28, wherein "wherein upon replacement of said search means by said other search means, said first interface means separably and directly connects, without via a network, said other search means and said execution means; a storage controller for accessing said storage device and reading data that has been stored in said storage device or writing data to said storage device in accordance with an applied read/write command; and second interface means for separably connecting said storage controller and said execution means; said execution means applying a read/write command to said storage controller in accordance with the entered command."

The dependent claims, bring definite, further limiting, and fully enabled by the specification are also allowed.

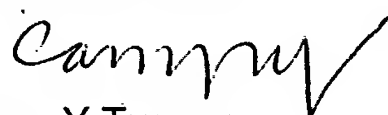
Art Unit: 2162

### **Contact Information**

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cam Y T. Truong whose telephone number is (571) 272-4042. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Breene can be reached on (571) 272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

  
Cam Y Truong  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2162  
1/15/2007